

THE BELLOWS

28th GREAT YEAR

May 17, 2007

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVIII No. 9

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| WHAT | NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS |
| WHERE | DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.) |
| WHEN | Thursday, May 17th 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (Doors open about 6:00 p.m.) |
| WHY | A short businss meeting..Auction (one item lot per member please)..Door prize..Show & Tell..Members' trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting.) <u>Program:</u> Our program will be members' tales of the hunt, and treasures acquired, from our just completed 27th Sale, Swap & Show. |

OUR 27th SHOW EXPERIENCE WEEKEND IS HISTORY:

Thanks to your knowledgeable hard working Show Committee our 27the Show Experience Weekend came off in fine fashion.

It began on Thursday evening with our special Club meeting to hear a most interesting and well done power point presentation by Rick Soloway of Tucson and Ralph London of Portland; on the Camera Designs of Walter Dorwin Teague. Mr Teague designed some of Kodak's most attractive and popular cameras from the late 1920s to 1947. He also did work for Polaroid beginning in 1947. The audience seemed very attentive and had many questions and comments during and after the presentation. An attractive display of Teague designed cameras...put together by Show Committee member Don Tempel from members collections...was a fine addition to the evening and provided fascinating hands off examples off just how creative Mr. Teague had been.

Friday evening set-up and P.S.P.C.S.'s hosted hospitality room were both successful. We sold more tables then we had in the past several years and a happy well-fed and "watered" group of sellers and their assistances enjoyed chatting in our hospitality room.

Saturday's Show went quite well with a hail full of sellers dealing with a good number of rather eager buyers. There were selier/buyers from the East Coast, Japan, Alaska, Arizona and the other Western States. Eventhough this Show had more early-in buyers than last year there were a few less buyers through the door this year. However, the word from many sellers was that their sales were strong and the buyers did indeed seem, by iniarge, to be in a buying mood; helped along from some half price sales tables as the Show drew to a close. Hopefully, our seliers will return next year with new "treasures" and even more of their friends.

Club members created ten tables of very well done photographica displays of items from their collections. A full report of winners and their category will appear in the June Bellows.

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THIS MONTHS' MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society

What 1950 TLR like camera was made of cast aluminum and came in three different models?

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The special April 26th Show Experience Weekend meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society was called to order by president Darrel Womack at 7:00 p.m. There were close to fifty members and guests in attendance. The reading of the minutes and treasurer's report were dispensed with.

Show Chairman Bill Kimber gave a short report saying that the Clubs' hard working Show Committee composed of: Bill Adams, Harold Beyea, Merle Carey, Stuart Curry, Sheila Fraser, Don Friend, Walter Hughson, Mike Immel, Bob Kelly, Stan Kirlin, Gene Raddatz, David Rystrom, Gary Sivertsen, Shirley Sparrow, Don Tempel, Mike Symons and Darrel Womack had done another marvelous job and our 27th Great Show was "good to go".

Don Tempel then introduced the evenings guest speakers Rick Soloway and Ralph London who proceeded to present a most enjoyable program on the Designs of Walter Dorwin Teague.

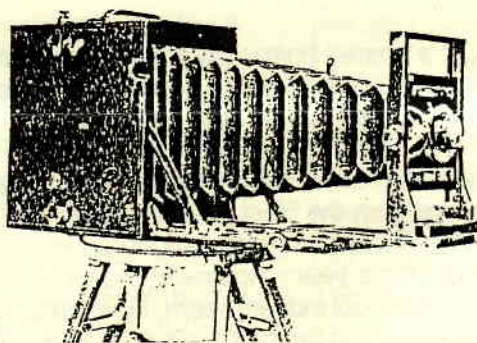
The evening..and meeting..slowly ended after 8 p.m. as members and guests talked with our speakers and admired the collection of Teague designed cameras on display while munching on some nice nummies provided by the Club and Ms. Sparrow.

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2008 SHOW TO REMAIN AT PUYALLUP FAIR GROUNDS:

As you know the Ciub decided last September to have President Darrel Womack appoint a three member search committee of Merle Carey, Gary Sivertsen and Chairman Bob Kelly to investigate other potential Show sites to see if there was one located between Seattle and Tacoma that would fit our future needs better then the Puyallup Fairgrounds. After a well done exhaustive search the committee came up with two sites they felt met at least the minimum ciub requirments as reflected in the Puyallup Fairgrounds site.

On Sunday, Aprii 29th, Bob gave the search committee's very thorough final report comparing the three sites under consideration to the Club officers and Show committee members in attendance. After organized discussion and the answering of all questions a secret vote was taken. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of remaining at the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup. Therefor, as long as sellers buy tables and buyers come to wheel and deal, the Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society will continue put on our Spring Show!



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, sesparrow9@msn.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET



2008 SHOW DATE TO CHANGE:

Just when you thought it was safe to mark the last Saturday in April on your calendar as our P.S.P.C.S. Show date there has to be a change for 2008. Despite all my moaning, gnashing of teeth and out right begging the Fair said our last Saturday in April date had to go to the model railroad people (who ARE those guys?) who had rented the WHOLE fairgrounds for the ENTIRE weekend. You could see the dollar signs spinning in the Fair peoples eyes.

So, your Show Committee, after much thought and discussion, has decided to accept the Fairs' offer of the weekend of April 5, 2008. It is still an April date and being a bit earlier in the month may mean we will have less activities going on to distract our potential eager buyers. There may well be something else happening but it is NOT: Mothers' Day..the opening of fishing season..the spring Husky football game, Memorial Day, Daffodil parade Weekend or the opening of boating season. Sure, it might rain a bit but with any luck it will not snow.

Please mark April 5th 2008 as the date for the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society's 28th Great Show Experience Weekend. It will be a special time..

The following is from the April 2007 Chicago Photography Collectors Society and is used with thanks. Ed.

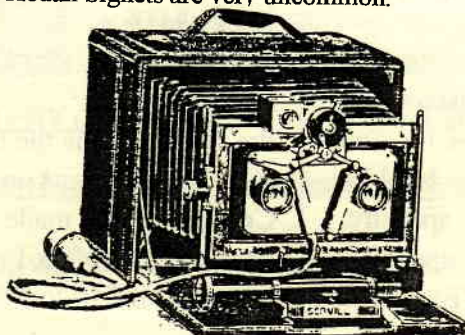
Caught on the Internet

Now you have probably heard of the Kodak Signet range of 35mm cameras produced in the 50's, and a very collectible series they are too---but not many people seem to know of the existence of a 1984 line with the same name. These cameras are rarely seen for sale!

The Kodak organization as always, set out to fulfill a market need, and in early 1984 released 3 new series of plastic 35's bearing the Signet name and the Kodak logo. The simplest of the 3 models was the very basic **Signet 35**, with a fixed focus 45mm f8 lens and a single speed (1/60) shutter. There was flash synch through a hot shoe only, and it had manual film advance by thumbwheel.

The second model was the **Signet Flash 35** with a 3 element 45mm f5.6 glass lens and a 1/125 single speed shutter. Again, manual film advance by thumb wheel, but the added convenience of a build-in electronic flash completed the step up for this model. The piece-de-resistance of the trio was the **Signet Auto 35** which as the name suggests has auto load, wind, rewind and auto-exposure. It did not have autofocus. But for 1984 these features were top of the line, together with a 38mm f 3.8 coated glass lens and auto capability up to 400ASA. When the top aperture of f3.8 was not enough, the built-in electronic flash was automatically fired. There was also a fill-in flash facility.

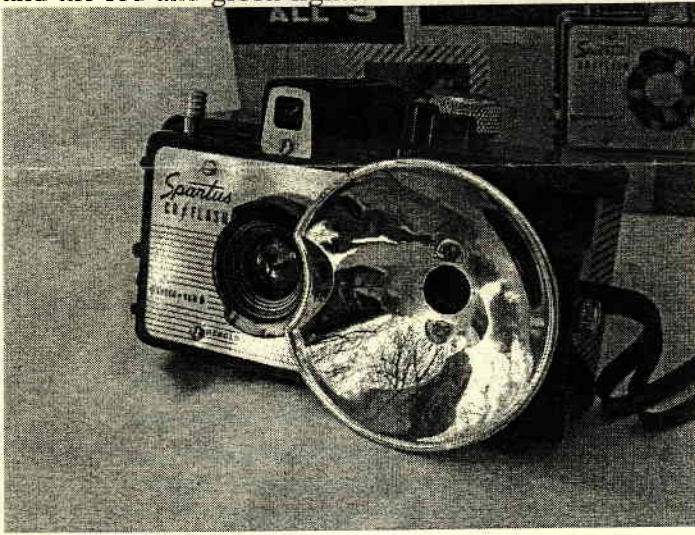
These Signet cameras did not appear in any known catalogs, and certainly predated the agreement with Kodak and Japanese manufacture Chinon that bought Kodak back into the full swing of the 35mm sales in 1986. The cameras bore no indication of the country of manufacture - a most unusual feature in itself - but they bear a striking resemblance to a couple of contemporary cameras that appeared in Australia with the Hanimex brand on them and came from the Haking factory in Hong Kong. If this is where they came from, it was a most unusual arrangement for Kodak! These 3 cameras are a real mystery as to where they fit into the Kodak scheme of things. Were they marketed in the 3 Eastern regions simply because Kodak wasn't selling enough 35mm film in these areas? Were they a market test for an already planned more universal release of range of 35mm cameras? At the time of the Signets release, the word from Kodak in Rochester was that they had no plans for a full range of Kodak 35's in the US! We may never know the full story of this little foray, but we do know that Kodak went on to return to the 35mm market with the VR series released in 1986, and that the VR series came from manufacturers in a number of Asian countries. These latter day Kodak Signets are very uncommon.



The First Point & Shoot?

By Ron Kuykendall

We're all familiar with the One Touch, Soft Touch and Sure Shot cameras of the point and shoot era. Pocket sized, 35mm, eye level finder style cameras that anyone can use, supplied with a wrist strap. Cameras that did everything for you if you were patient enough (and your subject like-minded) to wait for the auto focus, auto expose, auto flash, auto wind and the red and green lights.



Did you know the first 35mm style point and shoot camera (not the box style cameras of every generation with attached flash) was the last non-box camera designed and marketed by that innovator Spartus-Herold-Galter-Spencer-Falcon-Utility Camera Company? (Their last camera was the famous Vaguard 127 box camera of 1962). A brick-like, bakelite, eye-level 127 body with built in M2 flash next to the lens, it was the camera "for everybody in the family." It featured small size for the era, a host of automatic features: Auto focus (read fixed), auto flash (read insert bulb), auto eject (read turn lever), automatic double exposure prevention film winding to the next number in the red window released the shutter release. The camera would not work without film as the interlock was attached to the supply reel. The aperture was automatically set when loading film and you could choose color or black and white. All was set for sunny days and average people taking distances with a flash that could substitute for sunlight. It was a people camera. The meniscus lens was not focused for close or distant scenes beyond the range of the M2 bulb. The instruction booklet (a kind exaggeration) states no numbers, aperture, shutter speed, focus range, close focus distance or proper flash range, just point and shoot. "Everyone

in the family can take pictures." The viewfinder sees less than the lens "so you don't miss anything at the edges of the picture" and, oh yes, there is a wrist strap attached.

A quite similar camera by United States Camera, the Comet 127, appeared in 1961 with a color/ b&w switch, built in AG1 flash, but apparently no wrist strap. This camera also appeared as the Tower Camflash in 1961. Lastly, Kodak marketed the Brownie Super 27 late in 1961. It was about two inches longer than the Spartus, with color/b&w switch, zone focus lens, AG1 behind a door, two speed shutter, and no wrist strap. In about twenty years the wrist straps made a comeback even though the 127 did not.

References:

Collectors guide to Kodak

Lind's list

McKeown

Ebay listings

Various internet sites

Personal notes and collections

If you have any information or comments I would welcome your emails at: <rlkuykens@comcast.com> or to the Western Photographic Historical Society website-<WPHSOCIETY.ORG>

So

What 1950 TLR like camera was made of cast aluminum and came in three different

models?

Answer: The Pucky I, Ia & II were made by Ising in Germany.

The Pucky I does not have a hinged finder hood; Pucky Ia has a hinged hood, and

the Pucky II has the hood plus the Anastigmat f6.3/7.5cm lens. According to McKeown's, the Ising Company only made three other cameras. This would be the Isis, Isoflex I and the Puck. Pucky prices range from \$40 to \$60.



Photo courtesy <<http://ricardomontesdeoca.com/>>